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SENATE RESOLUTION 132  
By Fowler

A RESOLUTION to congratulate U.S. Army Ranger Kyle Stephen Smith and Christina Zeinner Smith upon their recent marriage.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, on January 26, 2002, Kyle Stephen Smith and Christina Zeinner were joined in marriage in a ceremony performed by Christina's father, and this loving couple now face the world as one; and

WHEREAS, Kyle Smith was born on March 17, 1975 in Altamonte Springs, Florida; and

WHEREAS, a Special Forces Ranger in the United States Army for over a year, he holds the rank of E-4 Specialist with the Alpha Company in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of the 75<sup>th</sup> Army Ranger Regiment stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, on September 11, 2001, after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, his battalion was put on "ready alert" and, within several hours after the attacks, were on their way to Afghanistan; and

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WHEREAS, Kyle Stephen Smith bravely and honorably served in the Tora Bora region for three months, before being rotated back to the states just after Christmas; while serving in Afghanistan, E-4 Specialist Smith suffered the great loss of his close friend, Christopher Stonecipher, who was killed in a helicopter accident; and

WHEREAS, Christina Zeinner was born on July 16, 1979 in El Paso, Texas; the daughter of missionary parents, she grew up in Mexico where her parents served a mission for over twenty years; and

WHEREAS, Christina and Kyle met and fell in love while attending Tennessee Temple University, where Christina was majoring in Elementary Education and Kyle in Youth Ministries; and

WHEREAS, after they had dated for two and a half years, Kyle Smith decided to propose to Christina Zeinner on a river boat cruise; however, he missed the boat and ended up patiently waiting on the dock until the boat returned two hours later; and

WHEREAS, upon her graduation last May, Christina accepted a full-time position at Brainerd Baptist School as a fourth grade teacher; she had just begun her teaching career, when the events of September 11<sup>th</sup> occurred and Kyle answered the call to serve his country; and

WHEREAS, a much loved teacher, Christina's class presented her with dog tags, bearing Kyle's name, for each class member to wear as a daily reminder to pray for Kyle and our country; in a News Channel 3 special segment honoring Kyle, Christina's fourth grade class was recognized for their thoughtfulness and patriotism; and

WHEREAS, upon his return to the states, Kyle and Christina moved their June 2002 wedding forward to January 26, 2002; and

WHEREAS, just nine days after his wedding, E-4 Specialist Kyle Smith returned to his duties at Fort Benning, where he is awaiting redeployment to Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, in these difficult times, marriages such as theirs represent the best of our society, as they remind us of the value and beauty of family and commitment; and

WHEREAS, it is the pleasure of this legislative body to honor the Smiths as they celebrate their love for one another, and embark on life's journey together as one; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby congratulate U.S. Army Ranger Kyle Stephen Smith and Christina Zeinner Smith on their recent marriage, commend his meritorious military service, express our gratitude for their significant personal sacrifices in defense of liberty, and extend to them our heartfelt wishes for every future success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.